



**POSTGRADUATE INTERNATIONAL LAW CONFERENCE 3-4 JULY 2014**  
**‘CONFLICT OF LEGAL NORMS AND INTERESTS: EUROPEAN AND**  
**INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES’**

The [University of Bristol Law School](#) invites postgraduate researchers and early career professionals to address the creation and development of international law from European and International perspectives. We seek to bring together scholars from across the world to discuss in a friendly environment, elaborate on running legal issues and promote their research activities. We are excited to support the engagement of young scholars in the development of international law and provide a platform through this event to build strong collaborations and expand professional activities.

Bristol Law School hosts a thriving research community in diverse areas, such as public international law, environmental law, commercial law and socio-legal studies. The research excellence of the University relies on over a 100 members of staff and research postgraduates and provides a highly supportive and stimulating environment for legal research of all kinds and for colleagues at all career stages.

We are very proud of the contribution of the [Human Rights Implementation Centre](#) in the research activities of the University. The Centre provides an international focus for developing expertise, advice and scholarship on the role of institutions, whether those are at the national, regional or international levels, in the implementation of human rights. The University also hosts the International Law Association (Wales and West Branch) Seminars, which provide a forum for discussion in furthering the understanding of international law led by leading academics and practitioners.

**Theme of the Conference**

The key idea is that international law develops in distinct legal orders. Trade rules develop separately from environmental law, EU law from national legal orders,

human rights from investment law, community rules from international law, counter-terrorism responses from human rights. These orders are autonomous to the extent that they have different regulatory domains and aims, law-making procedures and arbitrators, represent different groups of actors and comprise different legal epistemic communities. Very often however, conflicts arise between the norms or interests of two legal orders, challenging the autonomy of the latter.

The conference aims to explore how these conflicts arise and which legal or extra-legal methods are employed by the relevant actors, such as arbitration tribunals, international organisations and states, to resolve them. Both theoretical and practical approaches are relevant to investigate the effects of norm collisions on the separate legal orders and the development of the international legal system more general. Is international law fragmented, threatening the coherence and effectiveness of the international legal order? Or has this pluralism resulted in the constitutionalisation of the international legal order?

We would like to invite papers engaging in the examination of the above issues from theoretical or practical perspectives. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- collective security
- human rights
- world trade law
- international investment law
- post-conflict situations
- policies and accountability of international organisations
- refugee law
- counter-terrorism and national security
- constitutionalisation of the EU legal order and EU external relations

### **Keynote Address**

We are delighted to have as keynote speaker [Professor Malcolm Evans OBE](#), Professor of Public International Law, University of Bristol and Chair of the United Nations Sub-Committee for the Prevention of Torture.

The deadline for submission of abstracts of not more than 500 words, along with a short biographical note, is 7 March 2014. Please email your abstracts, including the author's name, institutional affiliation, contact details, and 3-5 keywords to [uoblawconference@gmail.com](mailto:uoblawconference@gmail.com) by the deadline. Speakers will be informed of acceptance of their papers by March and will be expected to submit full papers (5,000 words *max.*) the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2014. Presentations of the papers should be no longer than 20 minutes in duration.

For more details please visit our [uoblawconference.weebly.com](http://uoblawconference.weebly.com) or contact the organisers, [Sofia Galani](#) and Lisa Mardikian, with any queries at [uoblawconference@gmail.com](mailto:uoblawconference@gmail.com).